

Submission Cover Sheet

West Gate Tunnel Project IAC

Sub no:

161

Request to be heard?: Yes

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Organisation: Friends of Stony Creek
Address: 35 Severn Street
Yarraville 3013
Affected property:
Attachment: Friends_of_Stony
Comments: Submission in attachment



Friends of Stony Creek Submission

Landscape plan for Stony Creek reserve

The Friends of Stony creek have examined the proposed landscape plan for Stony Creek Reserve. We have a number of concerns about the plan and future consultation.

The reserve has been overseen by the Friends group and Maribyrnong Council. A master plan was developed with community input, the friends group and Council. It has been the guide for work in the reserve for the last 15 years.

The overall theme of the plan is to create wild urban park, with internal structures for recreational purposes, to serve the local community and general public.

Items on the plan are

- 1 An internal looping path.
- 2 A board walk above the waterline
- 3 Protecting riparian plants and structure
- 4 Indigenous plants to support more bird and fauna species

5 Creating open spaces for community use. For example Community events, play areas, dog use.

6 Bicycle trail connections with other trails

Response to Landscape Masterplan

The plan is contrary to the aims developed over the years with community input and development over that time.

- 1 The laying of mounds along the creek will destroy the riparian plants. It fails to recognize the indigenous saltmarsh plants still existing along the edge of the creek, which is recognized under the EPBC act and in your own Ecological report as a significant Coastal Saltmarsh community and to be protected.
- 2 Planting of tree groupings would also destroy the riparian environment.
- 3 Mass planting along the bottom of the embankment will prevent the building of a board walk and looping path as per the Stony Creek Future directions plan
- 4 Mounds and tree structure across the middle will break up the open space. This space is being developed for community use, as a playing area, dog exercising area and recently a Frisbee disc Golf course.
- 5 There is no mention of community input into the process and the proposed landscape plan does not appear to have considered the Stony Creek Future directions plan which was subjected to community consultation. Making contact with the various stakeholders, including the Friends of Stony Creek is requested.
- 6 There are no details regarding the preservation and/or protection of a stand of mangroves which exist along the northern embankment of the creek, west of Hyde Street. The important riparian vegetation must be preserved and protected during construction.

Opportunities for extra development in the Reserve

There are other opportunities that can be realized

- 1 Connecting staircase and ramp at western end of the embankment. Creating a circular walking path.
- 2 Bird hide on the upper level

- 3 Information boards
- 4 Picnic seating
- 5 Construction of a more useable car park and entrance
- 6 Off setting the loss of Indigenous plants at Hyde street ramp entrance. This would entail removal of weeds at the west end of creek edge and replacing with more saltwater plants.
- 7 Opening up of access under Rail Bridge by clearing of weeds and a gravel path along southern side.
- 8 Creation of bird habitat on the south side under the off ramp. In general habitat to encourage bird life; swallow, Honey eater (New Holland), Willy wagtail, egret, Mudlarks, Wattle birds, sparrows, Black shoulded kites blue wren and Ibis

Community consultation

The Friends group has been involved in consultation and expects be further consultation in the future work on the site. The process that was proposed earlier was that stakeholders would be involved in the ongoing development of the reserve. This will allow a more natural park to develop in line with community use and expectations.